WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An illumination apparatus comprising:

a light source; and

a condensing unit that condenses light emitted from the light source toward the optical axis;

wherein the condensing unit includes a negative lens portion that is arranged on a front side of the apparatus and has negative refractive power, a positive lens portion that is arranged near the optical axis and has positive refractive power, and a reflection portion that reflects emitted light that is not directed to the positive lens portion toward the optical axis.

2. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the condensing unit is configured such that it condenses the light emitted from the light source to a predetermined focus point; and

wherein the negative lens portion is positioned closer to the light source than the focus point.

3. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein negative lens portion is shaped such that its length in the vertical direction of the apparatus is smaller than a maximum length of the condensing unit in the vertical direction of the apparatus.

4. The illumination apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein the negative lens portion and the condensing unit are formed such that the following expression is satisfied:

$$0.4 \leqq D/A \leqq 0.8$$

wherein D is the maximum length of negative lens portion in the vertical direction of the apparatus, and

A is the maximum length of the condensing unit in the vertical direction of the apparatus.

5. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the negative lens portion and the condensing unit are formed such that the following expression is satisfied:

$$0.1 \leqq L/B \leqq 0.5$$

wherein L is the distance in optical axis direction between a maximum aperture position of the negative lens and a maximum aperture position of the condensing lens, and

B is the distance in optical axis direction between a maximum aperture position of the condensing unit and the light source center.

6. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1,

comprising an optical member including the positive lens portion, the reflection portion and the negative lens portion.

7. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a first optical member including the positive lens portion and the reflection portion; and

a second optical member including the negative lens portion.

8. The illumination apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein an optical irradiation angle can be changed by changing the distance between the first optical member and the second optical member.

9. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the reflection portion comprises a total reflection surface configured as a mirror surface.

10. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the negative lens portion is made of a lens having a concave continuous surface or of a cylindrical lens.

11. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1,

further comprising a reflection screen that is arranged to the rear of the apparatus behind the light source and reflects light emitted from the light source to the front of the apparatus;

wherein the reflection screen has a curved surface

that is substantially concentric to the light source center.

12. The illumination apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light source is a straight tube-shaped flashlight discharge tube extending in width direction of the apparatus.

13. A camera comprising an illumination apparatus according to claim 1.